

# Otepka Was Major Roadblock In Takeover

## By A "New Team" <sup>FBI Ab3b</sup>

### New York Times Linked To CIA Plot On Offl.

The Central Intelligence Agency's "New Team," including such "outsiders" as Harding A. Bancroft, now the Executive Vice President of *The New York Times*, played a critical role in the final decision of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to press Secretary of State Dean Rusk to proceed with the dismissal of Otto F. Otepka as the State Department's top Security Evaluator, a former Ambassador associated with CIA Director Richard Helms informed this newspaper on April 11.

According to the source, Mr. Bancroft played a role because of his liaison and coordinating work involving the use of the organization and facilities of *The New York Times* on behalf of the CIA and the "New Team."

Other persons who had a role included William H. Brubeck who had been the recipient of the 1960 "leak" of Top Secret information from the State Department to the campaign headquarters of John Kennedy which contributed significantly to Mr. Kennedy's narrow victory at the election polls. After Mr. Kennedy's victory, Mr. Brubeck received complete information about Mr. Otepka's role in tracing this "leak", the former Ambassador revealed.

Other members of the "New Team" were McGeorge Bundy and his brother William Bundy, who had moved from the Central Intelligence Agency to become the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including Vietnam.

#### "The New Team"

The "New Team" at the Central Intelligence Agency was being planned by Attorney General Robert Kennedy even before the Bay of Pigs "fiasco" in 1961. In fact, the former Ambassador said, the Attorney General had a special group of his own "monitoring" the Bay of Pigs operation to determine which persons, not yet projected for the "New Team", would "pass the test".

Although the "Bay of Pigs" was a national disaster, the source said, Robert Kennedy exploited it within the Government to accelerate building the "New Team."

The "New Team" goals were set by the "personality" of Robert Kennedy and the "philosophy" of President John Kennedy and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, the source revealed. The main exponent of this "philosophy" was Major General Maxwell Taylor, assisted by McGeorge Bundy and Walt Whitman Rostow, the former Ambassador said.

The mission of the "New Team" was to contest the Soviet penetration of the "Third World," the so-called nonaligned countries through "paramilitary, parapolitical and paradiplomatic" means. To do this, the "New Team" was to be a "paragovernment", performing for the United States "the same kind of functions" which the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the former Ambassador revealed.

This required the "New Team" to penetrate every department and agency of the Executive Branch dealing with foreign policy by inserting "trusted members" of the "New Team" into key positions. Among these were the Offices of Security of the State Department, the military services departments, the United States Information Agency and the Agency for International Development, the source added.

#### "New Team" Members

Besides Robert Kennedy and Maxwell Taylor, other members of the "New Team" were General Marshall S. Carter, who replaced General Charles B. Cabell as Deputy Director of the CIA. Very early "recruits" to the "New Team" were Richard Helms, today the Director of the CIA, and Cartha "Deke" Deloach, the second man in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Together with Robert McNamara and Dean Rusk, the "New Team" began the "infiltration" of the State Department

and the Defense Departments with Central Intelligence Agency personnel. "Counter-insurgency" projects sprung up in every agency dealing with foreign affairs.

#### Outside "Insiders"

Besides key persons already in the Government, the "New Team" selected persons in leading banks, law firms and foundations for the penetration of the "non-governmental" apparatus of the United States, the former Ambassador revealed. Because of the paramount role of *The New York Times* in American life and because of the "black" assignments which it might be asked to perform for the CIA, great care was taken to select a person who had full access to every office in *The New York Times* and yet could conceal his own operations. This was especially important because "gray" operations, involving special background briefings" for such top *New York Times* representatives as James Reston and Tom Wicker were already going on, and top *New York Times* reporters were in an especially good position to "uncover" the "black" operations.

Harding Bancroft had been originally introduced into the State Department by Alger Hiss, and, after Mr. Hiss became the head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mr. Bancroft served under Dean Rusk as a member of the Department's Office of Special Political Affairs, renamed the Office of United Nations Affairs. Subsequently, he took the post of General Counsel to the International Labor Organization in Geneva and then went to *The New York Times*, eventually to be named Executive Vice President.

During the Eisenhower administration, Harding Bancroft worked closely with Dean Rusk, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, maintaining close liaison with John Foster Dulles and with Allen Dulles, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

#### Bancroft's "Cover"

Because Mr. Bancroft's liaison role at *The New York Times* required meetings with top CIA and State Department officials, especially on matters of "Personnel", it was decided to designate him a member of the newly created State Department